



A DAILY INDEPENDENT GLOBAL NEWS HOUR
with Amy Goodman & Juan González

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Noam Chomsky on WikiLeaks, Obama's Targeted Assassinations and Latin America's Break from the U.S.

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GUESTS

Noam Chomsky, author and Professor Emeritus of linguistics and philosophy at MIT, where he taught for over half a century. He is author of dozens of books, most recently, *Occupy*, part of the Occupied Media Pamphlet Series. He was recently awarded the Latin America Peace and Justice Award from the North American Congress on Latin America.

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As the United States carries out another deadly drone strike in Yemen, Noam Chomsky compares the counterterrorism policies of the George W. Bush and Obama administrations. "If the Bush administration didn't like somebody, they'd kidnap them and send them to torture chambers," Chomsky says. "If the Obama administration decides they don't like somebody, they murder them." Chomsky also praises the whistleblowing activities of WikiLeaks, as well as the ongoing Latin American shift away from Washington's long-running political and economic dominance. [includes rush transcript]

TRANSCRIPT

This is a rush transcript. Copy may not be in its final form.

AMY GOODMAN: We return to our interview with Noam Chomsky. I spoke with him last week in the courtyard of the King Juan Carlos I Center at New York University. I asked him about WikiLeaks.

NOAM CHOMSKY: I don't see anything that's come

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out on WikiLeaks that was a legitimate secret. I mean, WikiLeaks is a service to the population. Assange should get an award for—presidential medal of honor. He's—the whole WikiLeaks operation has helped inform people about what their elected representatives are doing. That should be a wonderful thing to do, like—and it's interesting. Nothing really sensational has come out, but it is interesting to know, for example, that when the Obama administration effectively supported the military coup in Honduras that kicked out the democratic government and put in a—what amounts to a military-backed government, that they knew exactly what they were doing, because the embassy in—we learn from WikiLeaks that the embassy in Honduras had presented a detailed analysis right at the beginning of the coup that expelled the president and said, "Yeah, this is unconstitutional, it's illegal," you know, and so on. So, yes, they knew exactly what they were doing when Obama and Clinton were saying, "Well, you know, it's not that bad. Everything is going fine," and so on.

Or, for example, when Anne Patterson, the ambassador to Pakistan—this is some of the most interesting revelations. She supports U.S. policy in AfPak, Afghanistan and Pakistan, but she did warn that U.S. policies of, you know, assassinations, pressures on Pakistan, and so on, carry a real danger. They carry the danger of radicalizing Pakistan and—where opposition to these policies is enormous, and maybe creating even a situation where its nuclear facilities would be accessible to jihadi elements. So it's creating terrific danger. In fact, Pakistan is way more dangerous to U.S. security than Afghanistan, which is nothing. Well, it's good to know that they were getting that information. They were getting that information from analysts, you know, people who write about it and know about it, but the fact that they were getting it from the embassy is significant, when you think about how these policies were escalated. And, in fact, it's quite striking that the policies are undertaken in ways which almost—it's almost as if they're consciously trying to increase the threat.

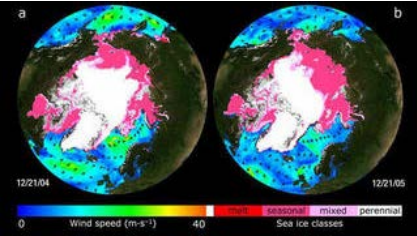
So, take, say, the assassination of Osama bin Laden. I mean, I'm a small minority of people who think that was a crime. I don't think you should have a right to invade another country, apprehend a suspect—remember, he's a suspect, even if you think he's guilty—apprehend him, after he's apprehended and defenseless, assassinate him and throw his body into the ocean. Yeah, civilized countries don't do that sort of thing. But—and notice that it was undertaken at great risk. The Navy SEALs were under orders to fight their way out, if there was a problem. If they had had to fight their way out, they would have gotten air cover and probably intervention. We could have been at war with Pakistan. Pakistan has a professional army. They're dedicated to protecting the sovereignty of the state, very dedicated to it, and they wouldn't take this lightly. A war with Pakistan would be an utter disaster. It's one of the huge nuclear facilities, laced with radical Islamic elements. They're not a big part of the population, but they're all over. But they did it anyway. Then, right after it, when Pakistan was, you know,

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totally outraged, we carried out more drone attacks in Pakistan, almost—you know, it's kind of astonishing when you look at the planning, quite apart from the criminality.

AMY GOODMAN: What do you think of the U.S. increased reliance—President Obama increasingly using drones to attack people in Pakistan, in Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, and beyond?

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